Ripped from the ROUNDUP

Ripped straight from the pages of old Space News Roundups, here's what happened at JSC on this date:

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irst details of a lightweight Gemini suit proposed for use in Gemini VII flight were announced this week at the Manned Spacecraft Center.

The suit, currently undergoing qualification tests, has not yet been approved for use by Gemini VII pilots. It weighs 16 pounds, including an aviator's crash helmet which is worn under the soft helmet. The Gemini suit currently in use weighs 23.5 pounds.

The suit can be completely taken off during flight. It can also be worn in the partially doffed mode, in which the gloves and boots are removed and the helmet is unzipped at the neck and rolled back to form a headrest behind the neck.

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ASA has signed an agreement

with the Federal Aviation Administration of the U.S. Department of Transportation to act as a "third party" for the purpose of receiving, processing and analyzing reports of unsafe conditions or practices filed under FAA's Aviation Safety Reporting Program, Acting FAA Administrator James Dow announced.

The new reporting system will modify the program announced earlier this year requiring reports to be filed with the FAA.

Dow said, "The third party arrangement should assure everyone that the FAA's only objective in this program is to provide the safest possible aviation system by identifying and correcting unsafe conditions before they lead to accidents." The agreement contains specific procedures to provide protection of the identity of persons involved in reports submitted to NASA, except in those cases involving alleged criminal conduct or accidents.

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ASA's Hubble Telescope has discovered several orbiting clumps of icy rubble that could be the remnants of recently shattered moonlets orbiting near the outer edge of Saturn's ring system.

Astronomers say this could represent the discovery of a new class of ephemeral transitional object in the solar system which provides new clues to the origin and evolution of Saturn's spectacular rings.

JSC to celebrate National Pharmacy Week

ational Pharmacy Week is October 22-28. The American Pharmaceutical Association first created the observance of National Pharmacy Week in 1925. The objective is to promote the value of pharmacy services and the role that a pharmacist plays in health care. The Pharmacotherapeutics Laboratory, located in Bldg. 37, will participate in the nationwide campaign entitled "Educate Before You Medicate" by hosting an Open House of the pharmacotherapeutics laboratory from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Wednesday, October 25.

The Pharmacotherapeutics Laboratory, known as the Pharmacology Laboratory until recently, was established at JSC in 1990 and operates under the direction Dr. Lakshmi Putcha, the senior clinical pharmacologist. The laboratory works in close collaboration with the medical operations team to support medical requirements for the space shuttle, International Space Station and space exploration programs. The activities of the laboratory include pharmacokinetic and pharmacodynamic research, therapeutic drug monitoring, specialized therapeutic monitoring for space flightrelated pathophysiology, novel dosage forms development and pharmaceutical stability assessment. Some of the ongoing research in the lab includes saliva diagnostics, intranasal promethazine dosage form development and validation methods for noninvasive clinical and therapeutic monitoring.

The recent addition of Dr. Tina Bayuse, a clinical pharmacist, to the laboratory staff has added a new dimension to the lab's activities. She is involved in supporting clinical pharmacy services associated with space missions. Some of these responsibilities include the development of an international drug equivalency database for the International Space Station, space shuttle medication monographs and drug information on



NASA JSC Photo 2000-5086

Dr. Tina Bayuse, a recent addition to the laboratory staff, works on Shuttle Orbiter Medical System medication monographs.

demand for flight surgeons and other personnel supporting missions.

Celebration of National Pharmacy Week at JSC gives visitors an opportunity to see the facilities and clinical pharmacy services available at the pharmacotherapeutics lab. A display in the lobby of Bldg. 37 will present various aspects of pharmacotherapeutics at JSC. Tours of the laboratory will be given throughout the day and offer an opportunity for attendees to see the equipment in the lab as well as meet the lab personnel and learn about the research in pharmacotherapeutics. The clinical pharmacist will be on hand to discuss the pharmacy services available and future plans for a help desk and brown-bag services. To facilitate plans for additional activities in the lab, a survey will be available for visitors to complete in order to ascertain

the pharmacotherapeutic needs of the JSC population.

Visitors can see the references that are in the process of being built as part of the Drug Information Service Desk. A poster presentation on pain management on Earth as well as in space will be a must-see during the Open House. As part of that poster presentation, the electronic drug effectiveness monitor (STARx) that was developed by the lab will be on display.

There will be many things to see and learn during National Pharmacy Week and, of course, during the Open House, so stop by and get a balloon or a button and educate before you medicate!

The Pharmacotherapeutics Laboratory
Open House is a wonderful opportunity to
see the many faces of pharmacy and
pharmacology activities and facilities at
JSC. It is open to everyone.

JSC users encouraged to get 'Informed'

o to the JSC internal homepage, click on "JSC Forms" and you'll discover a whole new world of electronic forms products.

Tammy Hoke, IMPASS electronic forms program supervisor, is excited about the new changes. "We are rejuvenating the electronic forms program."

The JSC forms, previously available as Delrina FormFlow products, have been migrated to a new product called Shana Informed Filler. The Informed Filler forms are now available through the Web from the Forms Search page. Click the "SEARCH" button to search for the forms.

"The Shana Informed software package is the agencywide interoperable standard for intelligent electronic forms. JSC is adopting that standard," said Hoke. "Informed Filler is a software program from Shana Corporation that enables us to fill out forms electronically and to collect and manage information."

Almost all forms will be converted to the new software. Many of the Word forms will eventually be converted as well where it makes good sense to do so, but some forms will stay in Word because of the process requirements. Some examples of why a form would stay in Word would be inclusion of the forms into documents, use outside of the JSC community where Shana software is not available, or word processing intensive forms.

"We looked at six different electronic forms products," said Hoke. "What we found was that Shana, which was already http://www4.jsc.nasa.gov/

established as the agency standard, met our requirements, one of which was ensuring interoperability with the rest of the agency. The NASA Electronic Forms Distribution Center at Ames and Headquarters had previously adopted Shana Informed for their electronic forms. All we had to do was focus on



converting the JSC forms."

This product also has what is called a distribution center mechanism. When a user accesses a form via the Web, that form retains a link back to its initial source on the server. When users open a form that has been downloaded to their local template directory, the template interrogates the server as to whether or not the form has been updated. If it has, a notice is sent to the user that the form has been updated. In addition, notices regarding forms that are going to be changed can be sent to the user. "We have

never had these capabilities before, and with ISO regulations that stipulate that controlled processes be maintained to ensure that users are using current forms, these are critical elements for us to put in place," says Hoke.

The new forms software application has to be downloaded and placed on the user's desktop. It will retain links to the server to notify users of any updates. Anyone who has

access to the JSC network can locate these forms and install the software. The application is available on the JSC internal homepage. Click on the "Forms" link to search for forms, register for training and download software. Detailed instructions for using the software are also available from the download page.

The implementation strategy is to convert all FormFlow forms first, get them deployed, have the user community complete online training in the use of the new software, and give the users an opportunity to familiarize themselves with the product. The next step will be to automate forms

processes using tools like the forms software, e-mail, digital signatures, database systems and building workflow.

To assist users in this effort, JSC Forms Manager Aubra Boyd will be contacting each directorate to appoint forms coordinators for their areas. These coordinators will serve as the points of contact for each organization across JSC.

For more information, contact Hoke at x34014, Boyd at x36285 or Jaime Powell, programmer/analyst, at x30586.